

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

him, in which his Germans suffered heavily. Both factions were equally implicated ; but the Raspanti had gained the ear of the Emperor, and obtained the support of the imperial troops in executing vengeance upon their enemies. The houses of the Gambacorti were destroyed, and the heads of the family put on their trial for treason. Their innocence was manifest, but the imperial judges wrung a confession by torture. On May 28, the three brothers, Francesco, Lotto, and Bartolommeo Gambacorti, with four of their principal adherents, were beheaded in the Piazza degli Anziani of Pisa, solemnly protesting their innocence to the last, and for three days, at the Emperor's orders, their bodies were ignominiously exposed in the mingled blood and filth of the piazza.¹ Piero Gambacorti, with his friends and kindred, was banished from the city ; while Caesar went on his way, leaving an imperial vicar behind him, and the State of Pisa in the hands of the treacherous Raspanti, who, in 1365, with the aid of foreign mercenaries, made Giovanni dell' Agnello, an unscrupulous and worthless upstart, lord of the city, with the title of Doge, to which he added that of captain-general of Lucca.

Cardinal Albornoz had come to Italy in the latter part of 1353- Temporizing with the Visconti, received enthusiastically by the Florentines and Sienese, welcomed even by the Perugians, he had begun by making war upon Giovanni di Vico, titular Prefect of Rome, the tyrant of Viterbo, Orvieto, Civita Vecchia, and other places in the Patrimony. Viterbo (henceforth the capital of the Patrimony), Orvieto, Assisi, Spoleto, and other Umbrian cities were recovered for the Church, while Rienzi was playing out the last scene of his deplorable melodrama on the stage of the Capitol. While Charles IV was receiving the imperial crown from the hands of the Cardinal of Ostia, the indefatigable Spaniard was carrying his victorious arms into the Marches, against the Malatesta of Rimini, Astorre Manfredi of Faenza, Francesco degli Ordekffi of Forli and Cesena. The petty despots were either expelled from their States or forced to act as papal vicars

¹ M. Villani, v. 31-33, 37 ; *Cronica di Pisa*, coll 1029-1033 ; *Cronica Sanese*, coll. 150, 152,